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*American Political Ideas: Studies in the Development of American Political Thought, 1865-1917.* By CHARLES EDWARD MERRIAM, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, University of Chicago. (New York: Macmillan Company. 1920. Pp. iii, 481. \$2.50.)

IN 1903 Professor Merriam published his *History of American Political Theories*, which has recently been reissued without alteration. That work received a cordial welcome as a scholarly production supplying a clearly felt want. From the same pen we now have a companion volume which by its subtitle is described as "Studies in the Development of American Political Thought, 1865-1917".

All historians have found the writing of recent history beset by the difficulty of presenting all the diverse facts which seem to demand mention and at the same time tracing within reasonable compass the clear and logical lines along which development has proceeded. Professor Merriam has not surmounted this difficulty. In his first chapter, entitled the Background of American Thought, he has given us an admirable, but very brief, survey of the forces out of which sprang the political formulas of the period since the Civil War—the reactions of democracy to modern industrial conditions, and the struggles of defenders of the old doctrine of *laissez faire* against the growing demands for public control of railways, trusts, and labor organizations. In his second chapter, entitled Typical Interpretations of Democracy, he has furnished us with an excellent analysis of the movement for the regulation of corporations and of the philosophy of the so-called labor movement with its later developments in the programmes of syndicalism and the Industrial Workers of the World. But, as the book advances, the mode of treatment becomes less and less one of broad interpretation and generalization, and more and more a series of very brief comments upon hundreds of separate books, pamphlets, and magazine articles. This material is, however, classified, and dealt with in separate chapters, which bear the following titles: the Consent of the Governed (in which writings dealing with the suffrage are considered); the Legislative and Executive Powers of Government (in which discussions of legislative processes, proportional representation, direct legislation, and problems of administrative efficiency are commented upon); the Courts and Justice (in which the literature dealing with the attitude of courts to social and "police power" legislation is surveyed); the Responsibility of Judges to Democracy; the Unit of Democratic Organization (in which writings dealing with the development of a stronger nationalism in the United States are summarized); Internationalism, Pacifism, and Militarism; the Political Party and Unofficial Government; Government and Liberty; Systematic Studies of Politics. In conclusion there is an all-too-brief chapter dealing with political ideas as found in American literature—essays, poetry, fiction—and finally, abandoning comments upon particular writings, a summary

of some twenty pages is given in which an attempt is made to indicate what, in fact, have been the outstanding features of political development in the United States since 1865. The most significant features of this development are declared to be a tendency towards concentration of political and economic institutions and a socialization of the state. So well is this summary done, one cannot but regret that Professor Merriam should not have more nearly followed this method throughout the book. Had this been done, we should not have been furnished with so many bibliographical references, but we should have been supplied with a more satisfying survey of the development of political ideas during the period covered.

No uniform style of foot-note references has been followed, and errors in names of the authors cited are not infrequent.

*Theodore Roosevelt and his Time: Shown in his own Letters.* By JOSEPH B. BISHOP. In two volumes. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1920. Pp. xii, 505; vi, 517. \$10.00.)

THESE two fine volumes will be indispensable to the historian of the past half-century, and the documents with which they are replete have no parallel among the writings of American presidents; but they exhibit the art of the official biographer at much less than its best. Mr. Bishop qualified for the task of writing the Roosevelt biography by many years of admiring friendship, during which he enjoyed both the frequent hospitality and the political patronage of his subject. He does not throw himself modestly into the background, content to be the transparent medium of revelation, as Mr. Paine has done in his monumental *Mark Twain*, but he ventures to add his comment upon events, and occasionally his testimony as to character or fact. In his handling of events, other than those fully covered by his source in the Roosevelt archive, he does not reveal the depth of knowledge or breadth of understanding needed by one who would show Theodore Roosevelt against the background of his environment. He may however plead that his editorial policy is that of Roosevelt himself, for the Colonel chose him as biographer, worked with him until death called him, and on at least one occasion advised him: "Let it stand. . . . I am willing to have what I said go into the record unchanged . . ." (I. 19). What the advice might have been if Roosevelt had ceased to approve himself may be inferred. But that contingency never arrived.

The conspicuous gaps in the biography have to do with the actual working papers of Roosevelt's career. Rarely has Mr. Bishop printed, perhaps he did not find, the letters that were themselves part of the transaction, and which do not reveal certainty as to the outcome of events. The wonderful letter to Sir George Otto Trevelyan, upon the African trip, and the long letter to Taft, then secretary of war, upon the Algeciras conference, are monographs by Roosevelt rather than